

MAJORITY RESPONSE RALLY
142 West State St., Trenton, N.J.
609-989-7580

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TRENTON -- A nonpartisan statewide "Majority Response Rally" urging early enactment of the New Jersey Civil Disorder Commission's urban aid recommendations will be held near the State House on May 27, a legislative meeting day.

Former Governors Alfred E. Driscoll and Robert B. Meyner are co-chairmen of the rally sponsoring committee, and Driscoll will be master of ceremonies. U.S. Senators Clifford P. Case and Harrison A. Williams are among the 40 prominent New Jerseyans sponsoring the rally.

Rally coordinator Ernest Erber of Elizabeth, a regional planner, said the mass gathering is designed to express to New Jersey's legislators nonpartisan concern among white citizens in the state "for/plight of our fellow citizens in depressed urban areas."

Erber said the rally is in response to the Riot Commission's conclusion that the city problems and remedies both are the responsibility of the "white majority." It will also answer the call issued April 26 by the legislative majority leadership "for the people of the State of New Jersey to come forth and tell us what they want," he said. (Quote from Senate President Edwin B. Forsythe, Newark News, 4/26)

The mid-day rally will convene at 11:30 A.M. on the lawn in front of the War Memorial Building near the Capitol. The speakers' platform will be on the steps of the Memorial Building. In the event of rain, the rally will move into the building.

Erber said that support and participation in the rally is being enlisted from civic, religious, veterans, women's student, faculty, education, human relations, business and other organizations throughout New Jersey. Initial organization efforts grew out of the New Jersey League of Women Voters and Human Relations Council of Trenton.

In addition to talks by members of the sponsoring committee and representatives of supporting organizations, the committee said that it is inviting the majority and minority leaders and presiding officers of the Senate and Assembly to participate.

"We hope to demonstrate to the Governor, the Legislature and the people of New Jersey that there is wide support in the white community for the recommendations of the Civil Disorder Commission," Erber said.

Other sponsors include:

Archibald S. Alexander of Bernardsville; Mark Anton, former senator from Essex and president of Suburban Propane Gas Co.; George Arnett, president of Trenton Saving Fund Society; John Bebout, director of the Urban Studies Center at Rutgers University; William S. Borden Sr., former Mercer Republican Chairman; Raymond Brown, Jersey City lawyer; Thomas W. Button, president of N.J. Jaycees; U.S. Senator Clifford P. Case; Henry C. Chauncey, president of Educational Testing Service, Princeton; Bishop John Dougherty, president of Seton Hall University and Auxiliary Bishop of the Newark Archdiocese; Lloyd M. Felmly, retired editor of the Newark News; Mrs. Millicent Fenwick of Bernardsville, Republican State Committeewoman; John J. Gibbons, president of the N.J. Bar Association; Robert L. Goheen, president of Princeton University; Mason W. Gross, president of Rutgers University; Frederick L. Hipp, executive secretary of the N.J. Education Association; Arthur J. Holland, former mayor of Trenton; Joel R. Jacobson, president of the N.J. Industrial Union Council AFL-CIO; Sanford M. Jaffe of Maplewood, Ford Foundation adviser on national affairs; Walter H. Jones, former senator from Bergen; James Kerney Jr., publisher of the Trenton Times Newspapers; Mrs. Robert Klein, president of the state League of Women Voters; Arthur S. Lane, general counsel of Johnson & Johnson and former U.S. District Court judge; Ben Z. Leuchter, editor of the Vineland Times-Journal; and Oliver Lofton, former Assistant U.S. Attorney for New Jersey.

Also, Lawrence MacGregor, former president and chairman of the Summit Trust Co. and director of Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co.; Mrs. Katherine K. Neuberger, Republican National Committeewoman; Frank C. Osmers Jr., former congressman; Basil Outerbridge, chairman of the board of Homasote/; George Pellettieri, former Mercer District judge; Rabbi Joachim Prinz of Temple B'nai Abraham, Newark, and past national president of the American Jewish Congress; Leonard H. Ruppert, executive director of the state Petroleum Council and former executive director of the Republican State Committee; Colonel Joseph D. Rutter, retired superintendent of State Police; Carmine F. Savino Jr., former Bergen assemblyman; Bishop Leland Stark of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark; Charles C. Thomas of Woodbury, chairman of the state Friends Council; William F. Tompkins, former Assistant U.S. Attorney General and former U.S. Attorney for New Jersey; George M. Wallhauser, former congressman; and U.S. Senator Harrison A. Williams.

Rally sponsors who were signers of the Riot Commission report are Governors Driscoll and Meyner, Bishop Dougherty, Brown, Gibbons, Lofton and Leuchter. Jaffe was the Commission's executive director.

The blue-ribbon Civil Disorder Commission report, issued February 11, contained sweeping reform proposals to remedy what it diagnosed as neglected social ills and frustrations tied to ghetto conditions. The Commission was named by Governor Hughes following last summer's riots in Newark and other New Jersey cities.

Although the Commission found that no amount of money or legislation will help without basic attitude changes in society, it did urge such far-reaching measures as a state takeover of Newark's public schools, absorption of local courts into the state judicial system, and broadening of state responsibility for welfare, new employment and antipoverty programs.